

Country Journal

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HAMPSHIRE

Committee passes FY22 budget

By Peter Spotts

The Hampshire Regional School Committee passed its fiscal 2022 budget on Monday, March 1, with several concerns about some of the increases and budget process from this year.

The budget passed by the committee is a 3.92% increase from last year, but

the assessments going out to the towns is a total 0.91% increase. Major increases include currently, but may shift as staffing changes occur, \$108,034 in contractual increases, and \$262,528 for three new out of district students entering the school. There are currently \$75,000 in projected insurance savings based on current staffing.

Expenditures for academic programming include \$81,425 for purchasing computers for incoming seventh grades as part of the 1-to-1 technology model, which they will use through their senior year; \$94,900 for professional development; and \$19,900 for additional summer programming for the expected increase in students

who will need services following a difficult COVID-19 year. Principal Kristen Smidy noted they didn't include any capital items this year.

"Given there are so many moving targets with covid relief grants and other funds we may incur we felt it was in our best interest to not

BUDGET, page 7

Cold water rescue



The Russell Fire Department demonstrates how to they conduct an ice water rescue at the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures on Saturday, Feb. 20.

Submitted photo

GATEWAY

Model UN students succeed at virtual conferences

By Shelby Macri

Though the academic year hasn't gone the way it typically would, sports and clubs have adapted to switching between remote and hybrid learning, including The Model United Nations club at Gateway Regional High School.

The group has been able to conduct meetings over Zoom and has participated in virtual International Model U.N. Conferences. The club participated in

two of these conferences, where Parker Atkin received the Best Delegate award for both conferences in the Crisis Social Committees, and will be working behind the scenes at the next virtual conference.

The club's advisor Alexandra Jennings said the club has been progressing in their meetings despite the remote model students are following.

"This year's model United Nations members have demonstrated the pas-

sion Gateway students have for their extracurriculars despite the challenges presented by this pandemic," Jennings said. "The unique nature of this year has created new opportunities for the club, such as our ability to virtually participate in two international conferences."

The conference gives



Parker Atkin

club members a way to discuss global issues with other students around the world, especially with the access to technology that students have today.

Atkin, who has been in the club for three years, as a senior

only attended the virtual conferences this year

STUDENTS, page 7

HUNTINGTON

Highway Dept. works one short

By Peter Spotts

One of several issues the Selectboard discussed at its last meeting in February included a discussion around the Highway Department currently operating a man down.

Highway Superintendent Charles Dazelle said the department has been down to two people after one member broke their hip on Feb. 5. He said the department has gotten help during some storms with plowing from Dennis Nazzaro when he's not occu-

HIGHWAY, page 3

WORTHINGTON

Repairs ready for bid package

By Peter Spotts

A project years in the making is finally reaching the bidding stage as the town is finalizing plans to post a bid for much needed improvements and repairs at R.H. Conwell Elementary School.

The Board of Selectmen met with the school and the architects who have been prepping the specifications for the long list of work needed at the building to go over everything a final time before posting the bid package.

REPAIRS, page 9

WILLIAMSBURG

Boards inquire about PSC plan

By Peter Spotts

Town boards had the opportunity to get all the details and questions on the recommended proposal for a new Public Safety Complex at all boards meeting last month.

The annual gathering of the respective town boards focused solely on the PSC. The 38 attendees had the opportunity to submit questions in advance or ask questions following a presentation covering the work the Owner's Project Manager Steering

PROPOSAL, page 11



Becket	10	Classifieds	15, 16	Middlefield	12	Puzzle Page	13
Blandford	6	Cummington	12	Obituaries	14	Schools & Youth	7
Business Directory	3	Goshen	12	Opinion	4, 5	Westhampton	12
Chester	6	Hilltowns	2	Otis	8	Williamsburg	11
Chesterfield	11	Huntington	3	Public Notices	14	Worthington	9



HILLTOWNS

Program subsidizes internet access, provides Chromebooks for job seekers

By Jonah Snowden

MassHire Springfield Career Center is offering the Mass Internet Connect Program which provides subsidized internet access to eligible Massachusetts residents through June 30, 2021.

MassHire Springfield's Executive Director Kevin Lynn said the program was launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Lynn, lockdowns imposed to contain spread of the virus widened the digital divide that keeps potential workers from employment opportunities because they are unable to visit career centers.

"As the lockdown continued, it became to be a problem," Lynn said.

"If you look at the workforce area, you can't apply for a job unless you do it online, so that means people were effectively shut out of the employment market."

Through the Mass Internet Connect Program, each applicant can be eligible for different services, which include a "starter kit," that includes a modem with Wi-Fi capability and a subsidized monthly internet service plan with download speed that vary depending on whether the applicant is served by Comcast or Spectrum.

Unemployed Massachusetts residents who lack a computer can check their eligibility for the Chromebook Device Subsidy Program. This component of the state's economic recovery plan provides eligible applicants a free Chromebook.

Lynn said MassHire Springfield does more than provide connectivity to job-seeking residents who need it, but also access to skills-based education.

"We've perfectly presented, created and are providing virtual workshops that you can take advantage of, to upskill your job search techniques, as well as other computer/technology skills," Lynn said.

"I think that's the real value. It's not just giving you access to the internet or a piece of hardware; It's providing skills that you can learn to upgrade and make yourself more marketable."



Unemployed residents and others who qualify can apply for subsidized internet access through the MassHire Springfield Career Center.

Courtesy photos



The Chromebook Device Subsidy Program provides free devices for unemployed Massachusetts residents in need.

Lynn also said for the foreseeable future, at least until the pandemic subsides, MassHire's operations will be all-virtual.

"We have all kinds of trainings available that people can qualify for," he said.

"If you're unemployed, you pretty much can qualify for everything. If any-

one's in this situation, this is a great time to skill themselves up to get them back into the labor market."

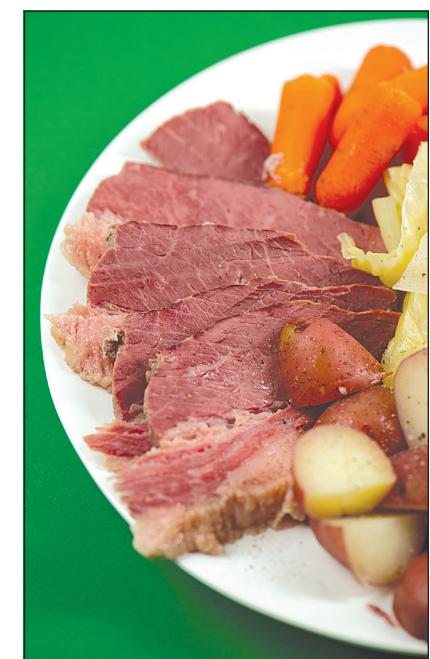
Anyone interested in applying for the program can visit masshirespringfield.org/micinfo/, email krogowski@masshirespringfield.org or call 413-858-2824.

St. Patrick's curbside pick-up on March 20

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging will be sponsoring a St. Patrick's Curbside Pickup Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon on Saturday, March 20. Meals will be available for curbside pickup at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington from noon to 1 p.m. at 15-minute intervals.

Participants are asked to remain in their vehicles wearing a face mask. One of the COA's friendly volunteers will greet them and bring out their meals. All ages are welcome. The suggested donation is \$5 per meal.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling 413-512-5200 by Saturday, March 6. Reservations are limited to 100. In the event of snow, the luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 27. The event is subject to cancellation due to any updated state COVID-19 restrictions. If cancelled, then participants will be called in advance.



Phase 2 vaccinations available

The local health departments of Hampshire County are pleased to share information about COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Hampshire County.

For years, the county been working together to establish plans for public health emergencies including mass dispensing. Strong partnerships, annual exercises, and robust stockpile of supplies have proved to be extremely useful in current response efforts. Recently, local first responders including police, fire, EMS, and dispatchers throughout Hampshire County were vaccinated. An effective clinic model to vaccinate members of the community safely and efficiently has been established.

Although health departments would like to offer as many different locations as possible, the COVID-19 vaccine storage, handling, administration and reporting requirements are significantly more complex than a traditional flu vaccine clinic. As a result, all vaccination sites will serve multiple communities from a region and must meet very specific requirements in order to receive vaccine. At this time, Hampshire County has two regional COVID-19 vaccination clinics in Hampshire County —The Bangs Community Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst and The Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton.

The Department of Public Health has developed a vaccine distribu-

tion timeline and it can be found at www.mass.gov. Both Amherst and Northampton sites have committed to provide vaccine distribution throughout all phases of the Commonwealth's roll-out plan. Individuals who are eligible to receive the vaccine will be able to register via a link on the city websites www.amherstcovid19.org or www.northamptonma.gov/vaccineclinics.

Additional clinics will be scheduled during the coming weeks based upon weekly federal and state allotments and will follow the phased guidelines as defined by The Department of Public Health. Eligible individuals can register online for an appointment. A second dose of the Moderna vaccine will be offered on or after 28 days later to anyone who receives their first dose at the clinics. If individuals need assistance with online registration, please call 413-587-1219 for Northampton or 413-259-2425 for Amherst and leave a detailed message. A health department representative will get respond within two business days.

Please note that the vaccine is free to individuals and is being provided to the states by the federal government. Sites can bill for a small administration fee to cover the cost of running clinic and insurance information will be requested. However, no person will be turned away due to lack of insurance.

Hinds backs summer camp openings

State Senator Adam G. Hinds (D-Pittsfield) announced overnight summer camps, which had been unable to open in the summer of 2020, will be included in Phase 4, Step 1, scheduled to begin on March 22. Overnight camps, to this point had been unable to begin planning, or recruiting employees or due to the uncertainty of being authorized to reopen.

"After months of countless phone calls, letters and meetings with the administration, I am thrilled that overnight summer camps will be included in the first step of phase 4," Hinds Said. "In a normal year, summer camps play a vital role for childcare, mental health, and education during the summer months for families. Camps will be critical for kids and families this year due to COVID. This is a victory for working parents, and the over 1,000 summer camps across Massachusetts."

Over the last year, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Camping Association, who represents dozens of overnight camps and countless more day camps in his district, secured \$3 million for summer camps to adapt to COVID-19 protocols and regulations, and created the Summer Camp Stabilization Fund to help camps persist through the extended closing. Most recent data estimates summer camps had a total annual economic contribution of \$1.3 billion and over \$220

million in direct paid wages.

"The Decision by the Baker Administration to allow overnight and day camps to operate this summer is a huge win for the 250,000 children served by summer camps across the Commonwealth," said Matt Scholl, board president of the Massachusetts Camping Association. "The data is clear that camps can effectively uphold the health and well-being of our children and staff when following evidence-based protocols. Children have never needed summer camp more; prioritizing camp is a choice to prioritize healthy and thriving children. Senator Hinds has been a tremendous supporter of the camping industry...and we have appreciated his dedication and concern to ensure that summer camp continues to exist today and well into the future."

"ACANE is excited to hear Governor Baker's comments today regarding the overnight camps in Massachusetts," added Michelle Rowcliffe, executive director of ACA New England. "Between what we've learned from ACA accredited camps in New England that safely operated last summer, ACA's research and the work of the Massachusetts Camping Association, it's encouraging to know families, campers and young adults from Massachusetts will enjoy the magic of summer camps in 2021."

HUNTINGTON

Home vaccinations and music performances available through COA

HUNTINGTON — The Council on Aging has been asked by Highland Valley Elder Services to gather the names of homebound seniors who cannot get to a COVID-19 vaccination clinic and would like to be vaccinated in their home if the service becomes available.

The COA is also compiling a list of seniors who would be interested in a clinic in Huntington or Chester. Please call the COA at 413-512-5205 and leave a message with a name and telephone number if someone's inter-

ested in being put on either list.

The Council on Aging is also offering performances by traveling musicians for Huntington seniors in their yard. The musicians will perform for 10 minutes at each house on Saturday, March 27, in the afternoon. Please call 413-512-5205 by Tuesday, March 16 for a reservation. This program is supported by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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HIGHWAY

pied with his full-time job. However, when he isn't available, the plow routes are delayed as Dazelle has to cover two of them himself.

"I have my route that I have to do then I have to jump other and do the other Route 66 and Searle. There's a big-time delay. I've got about 16 lane miles on my route," Dazelle said. "If it takes me two and a half hours to do my route, you have a two-and-a-half-hour delay on Route 66 and them [other roads]."

The town did post looking for full-time temporary help. Dazelle said currently there has been one response, but the town is keeping the window open for two more weeks to see if they can get more applicants.

"But town jobs these days, people just aren't running for them," he said. "We'll go in and see what happens."

Dazelle said the issue is not just for winter plowing; depending on appli-

cants' availability, the department may be looking for help when spring and summer rolls in.

"In the spring we start pulling ditches. We need three of us. If we only have two...it's going to delay it real bad," he said. "We've got mudhole season coming, pothole season coming, we still have snow and sand season here... We're basically in a pickle right now."

"We should probably look at an alternate plan," Selectman Roger Booth said during the board meeting on Feb. 17. "If he can't find another person for the next three months, we might want to have an alternate or something like that...in an emergency."

The question of if the Council on Aging could drive people to get COVID-19 vaccinations arose as well. With a COA member expressing interest, the board discussed the issue, but Chairman Ed Renaud voiced his concerns with

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, John 2:13-22, invites us to wonder if there is clutter in our sacred space. Is it time to clean house and make room for God once again? We will be celebrating The Lord's Supper/Communion during the Zoom worship service.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at "Norwich Hill" for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

from page 1

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the *Country Journal*, please email countryjournal@turley.com.

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taking on liability. The board agreed there could be liability concerns if something happens while transporting with a personal vehicle and recommended directing people to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority.

The board is preparing for the fiscal 2022 budget hearing on Saturday, March 13. Renaud said one of the areas he's looking to reduce is the Water and Sewer Commissioners salary line by half.

"We have to have the board. We don't have to pay them," Renaud said. "They can be volunteers. These guys are

doing absolutely nothing."

Currently, the salary line item is about \$8,600 across the three members, Renaud recommends cutting it down by 50% this year and evaluating it further in future years.

"I'm going to say that we do what we did to the assessors last year," he said. "They're basically doing the same thing; Kathy is doing all the work. I'd say we cut them to 50% this year and we'll see what happens after that. They're the highest paid board members in town."

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

History Matters

March 1 to March 15: Helen Keller, Alexander Bell and war dogs

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith
Guest columnists

Nineteen months after her 1880 birth, Helen Keller contracted scarlet fever, or bacterial meningitis, which left her blind, deaf, and mute. Her parents sought help from Alexander Graham Bell, who was known for his invention of the telephone, but, also, his celebrated work educating the deaf. He introduced the Keller family to the Perkins Institution, it trained people afflicted with "deaf-blindness" and facilitated the family's hiring of 20-year-old Annie Sullivan, one of its special needs teachers.

Keller was a stubborn student, but Sullivan was an equally determined teacher. She "spelled" words in Keller's palm--a difficult, and monotonous process--but Sullivan "got through" to Helen--within a few months when Keller felt the water flowing from a pump, and "remembered".

Helen and Teacher stayed together from March 3, 1887, until Sullivan's 1936 death.

According to History.com, Keller went on to learn how to read, write and speak. With Sullivan's assistance, her student attended Radcliffe College, graduated with honors, became a public speaker, and published her first book, "The Story of My Life" in 1903.

For more information about Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Helen Keller: Humanitarian" by Lois P. Nicholson.

Alexander Graham Bell

On March 7, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his "harmonic telegraph"--or--telephone. Up until then, Samuel Morse's telegraph was the only means of "instantaneous" communication, but Bell had been concentrating on resolving the limitations; it could only handle one message at a time--and it required a courier to deliver the news to the recipient.

The Bell family had immigrated from England to Massachusetts and settled in Boston where Alexander worked as a teacher for the deaf. But he was also the son of an inventor, and, while he was fond of his work as a teacher, he also had an innate desire to devise a way for people to speak "directly" with each other--from a distance. He partnered with Thomas A. Watson, who worked in a machine shop; and when the telephone was completed, he uttered the now famous phrase: "Mr. Watson, come here, I need you."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Telephone: The Invention That Changed Communication," by Samuel Willard Crompton.

Rin Tin Tin

The first Rin Tin Tin to become a movie star was brought home by an American GI from World War I. Apparently, it was the pup of a German "War Dog" that got cast in a 1922 silent movie, "The Man from Hell's River," the first of 27 "Rin Tin Tin" films.

Both sides in the conflict used war dogs, mainly to carry messages. But it wasn't until March 13, 1942, that the first official K-9 Corps was established by the U.S. Army's Quartermaster Corps to train dogs for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

HISTORY, page 5

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Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.



GUEST COLUMN

Taking on your houseplant questions

Elise, who enjoys reading the column from Brookfield, posed this question to the Garden Lady: "I have a number of scented geraniums in my sunroom that I dug up from my herb garden last summer. They were looking good for awhile, but within the last month their leaves have begun to turn brown. It seems to start with the older foliage, beginning with the leaf margins and working its way in. I keep picking off the bad leaves but more follow suit. Do you have any suggestions as to how I should remedy this?"



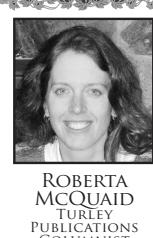
Scented geraniums were among the first herbs I ever grew! In fact, at 18 I had a windowsill of them in my bedroom. I loved how they would emit a heavenly fragrance whenever the leaves were rubbed between my thumb and forefinger. Scents like lemon, nutmeg, coconut and rose. Fast forward a few decades and I am blessed with a collection of scented geraniums in the greenhouse at Old Sturbridge Village! Although they looked great a couple of weeks ago, they too have started to show some brown leaves, exactly in the manner you explain.

My first thought is in regards to watering. You see, geraniums can be finicky when it comes to moisture. If you let them get too dry their leaves will brown; too wet and the same thing happens. Sometimes looking at the soil and watering if it "looks" dry isn't the best thing to do, and honestly, in my haste, that is what I have been doing lately. I am going back to the "finger test" and only water when the soil is dry to the touch, a few inches into the pot; maybe that will help.

Another point of interest is in regards to chlorinated water. There is some research that indicates geraniums are sensitive to chlorine. If your tap water is heavily chlorinated I would recommend that you fill a watering can with water and let it sit for 24 hours. The chlorine will dissipate before watering. Likewise, you can also run tap water through a charcoal type water filter to rid it of chlorine.

Lastly, our geraniums may be hungry. Beginning in late February and early March, scented geraniums begin to initiate flower buds and require additional nutrients to do so. I'll start feeding with a liquid ferti-

IN THE GARDEN



ROBERTA
MCQUAID
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PUBLICATIONS
COLUMNIST

izer at half strength every two weeks or so to support that need. Hopefully by adopting some of this advice your geraniums will begin to look a bit happier and mine will too!

Frances has a beautiful potted cyclamen and is curious how this particular plant is propagated. "My mother always comments about the beauty of my pink cyclamen. Can I remove a leaf, insert it into the soil and expect it will root, as would an African violet?"

Florist Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*) is a delightful indoor plant that flowers during the winter months. Its quarter-sized blooms in red, pink and white are unique in that the petals are bent back, reflexed even, and held above pretty, heart-shaped, silver-margined leaves. There are varying types available with fancy flowers and intricately patterned foliage.

The cyclamen plant is tuberous and unfortunately is best propagated by seed or by division of its fibrous roots. Usually this task is left to the experts who are best able to deal with erratic germination and roots susceptible to rot.

Recently I became the proud owner of my very first cyclamen (thanks, Mom!). It's always fun to get to learn about the life cycle of a new plant. With the cyclamen's bloom time during the winter, it has a period of dormancy mid spring through the end of summer when its leaves will yellow and shed, and it will demand next to no water. This time frame is opposite of what we are used to with our perennial flowers that bloom during the summer and go dormant during the winter. In late August, begin watering and leaves will sprout anew before blooming begins during the fall.



Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenneke@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Live Wires We Don't Have

By Deborah Daniels

H ave you ever walked along the railroad tracks looking for lost treasure? Besides old bottles and railroad nails, the next item of interest — glass insulators by Hemingway. Well, that is what we kids thought, what does Hemingway have to do with these hunks of glass? Although Ernest Hemingway did write "Across The River and into the Trees," he had nothing to do with today's topic, Hemingray glass insulators. It is true that telegraph wires had to go over rivers and through trees, Hemingway style, the job of glass insulators was to keep electrical signals traveling forward without short circuiting. Electrical Engineering 101, electrical currents behave like rain, they flow to the ground. Early telecommunication relied on primitive wires that were attached to wooden telegraph poles. Think of glass insulators as keeping the current going like a non-stop train to its destination with no opportunity to stray down say a wooden pole and start a fire. Miles of wire was strung up, carrying electrical currents from one wooden pole to the next and accidents involving stray currents happened often. Glass insulators came to the rescue. Being in the Hilltowns, you know what it is like to lose power after storms or the odd squirrel discovering electricity while tight wire walking. When the electrical signals stop, there goes the power.

The very first glass insulators were used with lightning rods that were on top of tall houses. They were used to keep lightning strikes going into the ground without straying. You may have seen an antique glass ball fixed near the top of the lightning rod on old houses. Lightning would shatter the glass ball, signaling your house had been hit by lightning with successful grounding of the current.

The next demand for insulators came with Samuel F.B. Morse's invention of the telegraph in 1844. It required wire to transmit the electrical signals that were then recorded on paper as communication. The first telegraph wires ran parallel to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks that connected Baltimore to Washington D.C. What was that first message he sent over the wire? It was a quote from the Bible, "What hath God wrought?" Next, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, which also required wires to transmit electrical current. His first message summoned his assistant in the next room of his Boston laboratory; "Mr. Watson come here; I want you."

The American landscape would be crisscrossed with overhead wires and iron train tracks. Crews of linesmen put up wooden poles to carry the wires of



A vintage sign advertising Hemingray insulators used to keep electrical signals travelling with short circuiting.

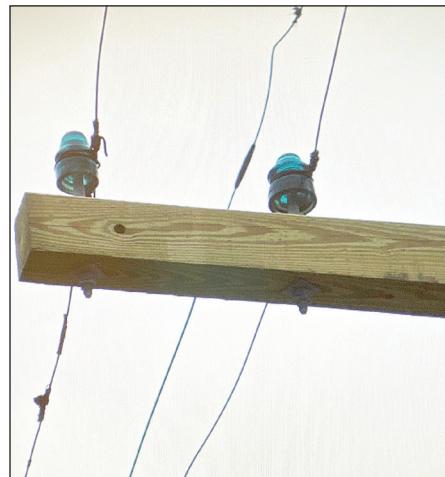
Online graphic

these new devices. Train tracks were laid connecting city to city, so it made sense that communication wires were laid beside train tracks. Railroads themselves became heavy users of insulators on their electrical signaling systems, hence you could find disused ones along the tracks. The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 brought electricity to farms across the country and electrical wires went up in earnest.

David Brooks of Philadelphia invented the glass insulator in 1864 while he worked for the Central Pacific Railroad, which was laying the tracks for the first transcontinental railroad. They used the telegraph to communicate with construction crews. Brooks had worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad building telegraph lines in the 1850s. He knew its pitfalls. He developed a thick glass insulator with a Ramshorn shape. It held the wires away from the wooden poles and was a success. Ultimately glass insulator designs were refined to become mostly thick glass domes with threads inside that allowed them to be screwed onto a wooden peg, with grooves on the outside to hold the wire in place. These became known as pin type glass insulators.

There were many different styles of glass insulators. Underground mining used glass insulators with holes in the top and bottom because they were driven into bedrock from above. With insulator names like bureau knob, beehive, hoop-skirt, spiral groove, pony and Mickey Mouse you can see creative minds were at work.

It was Robert Hemingray who constructed a glass mold to form threads inside glass insulators so they could be anchored to the wooden pole in 1868 in Kentucky. He was in the glassware business already making bottles, fruit jars and kerosene lamps. He read that glass opportunity right. He went on to open another factory in Indiana. Hemingray became the biggest American manufac-



Two insulators on a telephone pole to illustrate how they were used.

Online graphic



A color chart of insulator colors and styles.

Online graphic



A Hemingray #42 glass insulator.

Submitted photo by Deborah Daniels



A junked railroad pole with peg screws to hold glass insulators taken down and left beside the train tracks with the glass insulators stripped away.

Submitted photo by Deborah Daniels

turer of insulators. The most successful insulator ever sold was the Hemingray 42. It was first made in 1922. By 1937, one billion glass insulators had been manufactured. Glass insulators can be dated from 1933 on by the mold number embossed on the base followed by the year in two digits, so 34 would signify 1934. Hemingray insulators were made until 1967. There were other glass insulator manufacturers such as Brookfield in New York and Whitall Tatum Co. of Millville, NJ, which closed its doors in 1976. Porcelain insulators came about in the 1950s and proved to be better insulators to the higher voltage current that came into use. Cables have replaced glass insulators today.

But, oh, those antique collectors have immortalized glass insulators. Colorful glass insulators are highly prized. It is hard to resist those cobalt blue and purple insulators. Surprisingly, those rainbow colors were often not by

design. The glass companies recycled glass, so that 7-Up shade of green may have been the result of green gin bottles being melted down to form insulators, or a leftover batch of cranberry glass being used up to make insulators.

Have you ever seen the tangle of wires over our heads today? Imagine how distracted we would be by beautiful colored insulators catching the sunlight; gets you hankering for those old glass insulators, doesn't it? Many linesmen would bury old insulators as they took down telephone poles so don't despair there is an insulator or two waiting out there to be discovered. Happy Hunting.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

HISTORY

from page 4

According to History.com "The K-9 Corps initially accepted over 30 breeds of dogs, but the list was soon narrowed to seven: German shepherds, Belgian sheepdogs, Doberman pinschers, collies, Siberian huskies, Malamutes and Eskimo dogs. Members of the K-9 Corps were trained eight to 12 weeks; then, they were put through one of four specialized programs to prepare them for work as sentry dogs, scout or patrol dogs, messenger dogs or mine-detection dogs. In active combat duty, scout dogs proved especially

ly essential by alerting patrols to the approach of the enemy and preventing surprise attacks."

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children's books that emphasize the importance of American history.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "No Better Friend: Young Readers Edition: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II," by Robert Weintraub.



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BLANDFORD

Select Board business includes STM reschedule

By Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD — The Select Board Monday night acted on several items. They approved the new Electrical Permit fees as written. The select board approved the date change for the warrant for the Special Town Meeting cancelled last week because of the storm and it's now set for March 22.

The board also accepted a revised host community agreement with Pudding Hill Farm, LLC, for a very small marijuana growing facility on Julius Hall Road. Pudding Hill Farm plans to wholesale their small-batch cannabis "to local, licensed adult-use dispensaries only; there will be no sale of product "from their facility and they do not plan, at this time, to produce any products other than raw cannabis flower.

The board approved reducing the

charitable donation from three percent to one percent based on information provided, as Pudding Hill expects, after security costs, all fees, etc. their expected net would be "roughly \$30,000 annually."

Chair Cara Letendre also signed a contract amendment for another installment of funding to support public health related work in the amount of \$5866.73. The Board of Health will benefit from the additional funds. Another contract signed was for the receipt of \$4,800 in funding from the Mass Cultural Council for the town's Arts Council to distribute this year.

Another contract for Council on Aging reimbursement funds for \$22,500 for outreach services through the Southern Hilltown Consortium was also signed.

The board received notice of \$297,072 in funding for the town's

roads through Chapter 90.

Most of the meeting centered on a discussion about what to do with the Shepard Farm property on Otis Stage Road almost opposite Shepard Road. The town owns the property with the Conservation Commission having oversight for the 135 acres; they issue hunting permits for the property; and the Historical Commission having oversight of the structures.

Mick Brennan represented the Historical Commission, Mike Hutchins the Planning Board, Shannon Walsh, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Historic Preservation Planner, and Dick Gates, Conservation Commission Chair.

It was decided to move forward with grant applications for a feasibility study to find out the best potential use of the property. Walsh will put a packet together for this purpose and suggest a subcommittee of a small group to

discuss options. She also recommended pursuing Article 97, which provides an opportunity for a 'land swap' which will also help determine the outcome and give the town "more options."

The select board had before them a \$4,000 Local Technical Assistance contract with PVPC for Walsh to conduct an inventory of the town's Main Street area consisting of 82 buildings from 60 Main St. to the intersection with North Street; North Street area to include 27 buildings including the fairgrounds, and an additional 11 or more buildings on Woronoco Road.

And a second contract from the Historical Commission that requested Historic Preservation LTA to help offset the cost of documenting the Shepard Farm as well for a contractual fee of \$662.50, also for Walsh's services through PVPC. Neither proposal was approved.

Two candidates nominated by Caucus for Selectboard seat

BLANDFORD — Monday night's caucus produced one contest, for that of the select board. Both TJ Cousineau and Mike Hutchins were nominated for the seat vacated by Eric McVey.

There were no nominations for either of the two Fence Viewer positions, one for three years and one for two years, or Field Driver for three years, but candidates may be written in.

All other positions are unopposed: Assessor, Eric McVey, although it is not certain that he will accept the nomination; Board of Health, Bret



TJ Cousineau



Mike Hutchins

Hartley; Cemetery Commissioner, Stephen Jemiolo; Library Trustee, Mary Kronholm; Moderator, David Hopson;

Municipal Light Plant, Kim Bergland; Planning Board for five years, Stephanie Chaffee; School Committee, Keri Morawiec; Tree Warden, Mark Boomsma; and Water Commissioner, Brad Curry.

All positions are for three year terms except Planning Board.

Town election is set, by bylaw, for the second Saturday in May, which is May 8 this year.

WINTER WEAR



The Blandford Fire Department adorned with a crown of ice across roof edge.
Photo by Shelby Macri

CHESTER

Vulnerability mapping continues Saturday

CHESTER — Chester Strong, resilient and ready mapping with Meredyth Babcock, continues Saturday, March 6, at the Chester Railroad Museum. Sign up for 15 minutes slot any time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to share views and knowledge about Chester's vulnerability in a changing climate. Call 413-623-2070 or just stop by.

The town of Chester has joined many other, forward thinking towns

across the state in identifying and prioritizing its vulnerabilities and strengths. The changing climate is impacting every corner of the planet. The steps taken to prepare for increasing high-water events, droughts, and habitat loss matter. Taking action now can reduce, not eliminate, the inevitable impacts of the changing climate. This project is made possible through an MVP grant and the skills of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Sam Stevens checks supplies for take home Seek and See kits

Grant funds library virtual programs

By Mary Kronholm

BLANDFORD — Trustees of the Porter Memorial Library announced that the library is the recipient of a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Grant for virtual programming for distance learning.

The grant, funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Institute of Museum and Library Services is for \$2,052 and will enable Library Director Nicole Daviau to present a total of 13 programs.

The programs encompass a five-month long Seek and See series beginning this month with a Blandford Treasure Hunt. Participants will pick up a Seek and See kit at the library.

The Seek and See program is a series of virtual and live events and circulating kits that will inspire and motivate everyone, seniors, adults and kids to get outside and learn about the town and nature.

According to Daviau, the programs and kits "play directly to our strengths as a small rural community that are often overlooked."

Blandford has a wealth of outdoor spaces to explore with a long history, and has many community members who specialize in local plant identification and herbology as well as local history.

During the pandemic the focus for kids and working adults has been on virtual programs and learning remotely.

"Screen fatigue is a problem, especially for our youngest patrons," said

Daviau, "and these are kids who enjoy and require a lot of time in free play and outdoor exploration."

Also, senior patrons who do not have access to the technology can participate as well.

Daviau has carefully considered many ways to create hands-on activities for all ages to learn "real" things about Blandford and she has created hybrid programs that have a physical component as well as a virtual program.

"Seek and See ensures that there is something for everyone," she said.

Collaboration with the Historical Society is an important feature of the program. There will be a pre-recorded virtual local history presentation by the Historical Society about the different sites involved in the Treasure Hunt.

Each person who checks out a Treasure Hunt kit will discover letterboxing, an outdoor hobby that combines elements of orienteering, art, and puzzle solving. Letterboxes, in this case the library, hide small, weatherproof boxes in publicly accessible places. Individual letterboxes contain a notebook and a rubber or wooden stamp. Finders make an imprint of the letterbox's stamp in their own notebook while stamping their own unique stamp in the letterbox notebook making a record of who found the letterbox.

Every participant will have their own passport which will be stamped on completion of each of the five monthly Seek and See programs.

Those who complete the entire passport program will be awarded a certificate and "be library famous."

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

HAMPSHIRE

Musical looks for budget friendly show this year

By Peter Spotts

The annual school musical was limited to one of three shows last year by COVID-19 and while students and staff are motivated to make it happen this year, financial difficulties are adding speed-bumps to the process.

Myka Plunkett and Jenneke Reynolds approached the Hampshire Regional School Committee last month to discuss the possibility of getting funding into the school budget to help the musical. In the past, the musical has been self-sustaining thanks to its ticket sales, advertising, and grants, but COVID-19 dropped revenue by about \$12,000 last year.

"I think it wouldn't be unreasonable to ask the school committee to consider funding the musical in part with \$10-\$15,000 annually," Plunkett said. "If we had funding through the school system to meet the basic costs...then money we raised we'd use ourselves for sets, lights, all those extra costs incurred, and bring in other professionals to teach workshops and things."

Smidy said the financial situation should suffice to fund a production this year, but future years maybe in trouble if the musical accounts are drained of funding. The budget passed by the committee on Monday, March 1, also has \$5,000 in it for the musical, to help cover some of

the cost this year.

"Between what the musical currently has in the student activities account and the musical booster club, they are confident they have enough funds to do the show this year only," Principal Kristen Smidy said. "Without the revenue from last year's ticket sales, they will need funding going forward if they zero out their balances this year. I think the school committee is willing and able to dedicate funds from the fiscal 2022 operating budget to ensure that the musical can continue."

Plunkett and Reynolds have worked on a plan to create the safest production possible given the circumstances. The target date is to hold an outdoor musical the week after graduation. This will allow cast and audience members to properly distance safely outdoors and be comfortable. Also, by doing it outside during the daytime, there'd be no cost for additional lighting. Holding it at the stadium seating area will also save on renting seat costs.

"We're working on ways to keep the budget down for what we'd need to pull off this year," Plunkett said. "I think it's still very doable. I think it's going to present some odd challenges. By doing it near graduation, we'd also be doing that to piggyback to the sound system... so then we wouldn't have to rent equipment."

Another way to save costs is elimi-

nating royalty fees. To do this, the musical has decided to do "musical cabaret," snippets from several musicals rather than one specific production, which eliminates royalty fees for this year.

Juniors and Seniors will be the only students allowed to participate to help keep numbers low.

"Students can social distance on stage and it won't compromise the storytelling," Plunkett said.

The school currently puts in about \$1,500 to the school operating budget annually to help fund leadership positions including the advisor, producer, musical director, and tech director.

"The other roles are paid for with the funds that the musical booster club raises along with ticket sales and many, many volunteers," Smidy said. "As this model may no longer be sustainable since ticket sales were non-existent last year, we are going to use any remaining balance in the musical student activities account and through fundraisers this year to do a modified show with limited expenses, and then try to start funding it through the operating budget next year."

Committee member Sarah Christiansen of Williamsburg spoke in favor of supporting the effort put in by students, staff, and volunteers to make drama productions possible.

"Hands down, I've never had to work so hard as I've had with such love and

such commitment," she said. "There is an imbalance in terms of the investment in extracurricular activities."

Westhampton representative Peter Cleary asked if the Board of Health has been consulted on the issue of holding a play. Plunkett and Reynolds said they're waiting to proceed to that step to see if they'll have the funds to hold a production at all.

"Unless we're able to receive a bit of funding we aren't able to really do it," she said. "That would absolutely be the next step before we audition the kids."

The drama program, in a normal year, draws 50 to 70 kids from those on stage to ones working behind the scenes. The only extracurricular or athletic activities rivalling it in number are track and cross country. Committee members discussed the merits of the program being a draw to keep some students from choosing out of the district, which would make an investment worthwhile compared to the costs of losing a student who uses school choice to pursue drama at another school.

"It is such a huge part of the Hampshire culture," Smidy said. "I'm inspired by the creativity of the planning team to think outside the box so we can do a show this year. The students are aware that it will be different, but I think many are just thrilled that there is something to look forward to."

BUDGET

include any capital items," Smidy said.

She added, "It's important that we maintain it [the 1-to-1 technology model] to continue to use all of the amazing online resources and tools that we have been using this year. If we didn't keep it up, we wouldn't have enough computers to give to every student, which would mean that there would be quite a bit of resources that wouldn't be fully utilized."

Chesterfield is the only district town seeing a decrease in its assessment, currently projected at a 10.64%, or \$81,378, decrease. Goshen increase is 5.58% totaling \$29,491; Southampton 1.13% at \$60,136; Westhampton 4.29% at \$59,271; and Williamsburg 0.93% for a total of \$14,918.

Goshen Finance Committee Chairman Dawn Scaparotti asked if there were any grants available the school could use to lower the budget increase. Business Administrator Bobbie Jones said the school has expended most of its grants at this point on personal protection equipment, remote learning access for students, and the addition of one-to-one computers. The main grant not currently applied is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant.

"We recently received more money, but it has specific allocations that we are required to spend, such as \$10,000 on student mental health supports," Smidy said. "Towns are also able to use ESSER funds to offset their assessment for fiscal 2022 only if their minimum contribution determined by the state is an increase. It's pretty complicated, so Bobbie [Jones] suggested having a five-town school committee and select board meeting to discuss the implications."

A future meeting is being planned for all five school committees and

all the district towns to attend to discuss these funds and the allocation for spending. Until then, the school isn't looking to make any part of the budget dependent on it.

"ESSER is a preliminary number so we don't want to spend it," said Smidy. "Although we are told our ESSER grant is \$85,000, it may end up the High School is only able to spend like \$30,000 of that, so I don't want to count on the grant to pay for something."

Chesterfield representative Trish Colson-Montgomery expressed her concerns that the presented budget did not have enough changes, in her opinion, from the dream budget presented to the committee last month.

"You said you know this was kind of a wish list, you didn't expect to get everything, but you never cut anything back and its everything you put in your wish list budget," Colson-Montgomery said. "I don't think it's an appropriate budget and I will not be voting for your budget and I will not be supporting it at Town Meeting this year. I think it's too high."

While Colson-Montgomery was the only member to vote against the budget during the committee vote, Goshen's Paul Marcinek and Neil Godden both expressed concerns they have about the budget process needing to improve its transparency with towns next year.

"I want to make it clear that I think it's very, very important that we do a better job of coordinating with the town finance committee's and make this a little bit more knowledgeable," Marcinek said.

Chair Margaret Larson said it's an issue that has come up during superintendent search interviews and anticipates the process will be different next year.

Four finalists named for Gateway superintendent

The Gateway Regional School District announced their finalists for the superintendent position. Current superintendent, Dr. David Hopson, will be retiring following the 2020-21 school year.

The four finalists selected by the Gateway search committee are East Longmeadow High School Principal Gina E. Flanagan from West Suffield, CT, and currently attending Harvard's School Leadership & Management Program; Battenkill Valley Supervisory Union Superintendent William Bazyk, Manchester, VT; Hampshire Regional Principal Kristen Smidy, Westfield, MA;

and Gateway Regional Pupil Services Director Kurt Garivaltis, Pittsfield, MA.

The next steps in the process are to have the finalists participate in school and community forums involving staff, students, parents, and community members, which will happen beginning the week of March 8. The school committee will then hold final interviews on the last two Wednesdays in March with the goal of naming a new superintendent in April. More information on the process and how individuals can be involved will be released soon.

For updates, visit grsd.org.

STUDENTS

and won her first awards at both, winning best delegate in the Crisis Social Committee twice.

In the next Virtual International Model United Nations Conference, Atkin will not be playing as a delegate; she was selected as VIMUN's Undersecretary-General of Crisis.

"Which means I'll be backstage for two of the conference's committees, helping to shape the arc of the committee, and processing delegate directives. Actions they take that can influence the committee," Atkin said. "For example, a potential directive would be if the delegate from Germany sends ten thousand troops to the French border in order to invade France. We also have our eye on a number of other conferences."

The VIMUN runs several committees during each conference, typically four or five, and Atkin will be advising them. She said she enjoys the club and would like to continue with the

Model UN going forward, though she is a Senior this year and will need to look into college opportunities come spring.

"I think it's a lot of fun," Atkin said. "I'm really interested in immersive storytelling, either as a player or guest navigating these stories, or as someone creating them for others."

Despite the odd year and the changes in learning models, the members of the Model United Nations — which includes Atkin, Brian Forgue, Nancy Mueller, and Logan Mulkarin — have kept up to the club's standards and worked to keep the club going amid COVID-19.

There is another VIMUN Conference scheduled for March 27, where the Gateway students will have a chance to interact with international members. It's also where Atkin will be able to try her hand at the behind the scenes work as the Undersecretary-General of Crisis.

from page 1

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OTIS

Bunny bags registration closes March 19

OTIS — Celebrate the coming of Spring with Bunny Bags courtesy of the Otis recreation Commission. Bunny Bags to-go are filled with goodies including candy and some activities and will be available to be picked up on Saturday, March 27, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Each bag costs \$5 and payment must be received within one week of registration. Mail or drop off payment at the Rec Center, 7 North Main Road, P.O. Box 2377, Otis, MA 01253. Registration is required and closes on March 19. Limited quantities are available.




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SNOW WALK



The path to the Otis Public Library Story Walk was a snowy trek along the Farmington River Trail.

Photo by Shelby Macri

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WORTHINGTON

Conwell School to receive review

WORTHINGTON — During the week of April 5, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of R.H. Conwell elementary School.

The Office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students. In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process.

The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special edu-

tion program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Alaena Podmore, Public School Monitoring chairperson, at 781-338-6706 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the school with a report with information about areas in which the school meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the school requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/.

REPAIRS

"I can't believe we're actually at a point where we're ready to go for a bid," Chairman Charley Rose said.

The work is focused on the 1971 addition to the school. This includes major insulation improvements to the exterior envelope of the entire addition, replacement of the portion of the sprinkler system within the addition, and removal and replacement of the siding and trim.

"I think the process started in 2019 with water damage due to a pipe bursting. That got one of our local architects to look into the envelope in this part of the building," said Selectman Steve Smith. "We also noticed we had a persistent problem with peeling on this particular wing of the building. One thing led to another and we discov-

ered that we had taken the school over and began absorbing the heating costs, and the heating costs for the building were fairly high."

The plans were designed by Fitch Architecture & Community Design. Architect Laura Fitch broke down the 20 pages of designs and architectural drawings for the various pieces of the project and everything is in order to prepare for the posting of the bid package.

"I had a great review with your building inspector. I feel good about that," Fitch said.

Smith did recommend the town look into hiring an architect to do regular check-ins on the work to make sure proper materials and building techniques are being followed. Rose doesn't want to overburden resident architect Kevin O'Connor, who has already put

many hours into helping with the project.

"It's asking a lot of Kevin," Rose said. "We need to have someone exercise some oversight on a more regular basis than the normal range of architectural services."

The town had wanted to go out to bid last summer, but COVID-19 caused delays, pushing the schedule back. The bid package is scheduled to go out at the start of March. Executive Assistant Peggy O'Neal said the plan is to have a deadline for bid documents to be returned by the beginning of April so the town can have an estimate of the work cost to bring to the voters at Annual Town Meeting and begin construction over the summer, if it's approved.

"We're certainly hoping that can happen," Smith said.

Early voting by mail applications due by Tuesday, March 9

WORTHINGTON — Early voting by mail is available for the March 13 special town election. If a resident does not qualify to vote by absentee ballot, they can vote early by mail.

Applications to vote by mail must be received by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, but it is recommended to submit applications by Thursday, March 4.

However, it is recommended applications be submitted by March 4. An application is available on the town website, westhampton-ma.com.

Submit applications and return ballots to Town Clerk, Westhampton Town Hall, 1 South Road, Westhampton, MA 01027.

Ballots must be sealed in the provided tan envelope. The envelope must be signed by the voter along with printed name and address as registered to vote. Voters are

required to return their ballots in the white pre-addressed envelope provided with the ballot, or in person, or into the designated official ballot drop box located at the base of the stairs to the Town Hall. Be sure to insert ballot fully and check that it dropped into the box. The Tax Collector payment lock box in front of the town hall is not an official designated drop box for the deposit of ballots. Ballots dropped in there or any location other than the official ballot drop box or in person are done so at voter's risk.

Once an early or absentee vote by mail ballot is marked as returned and accepted in the Voter Registry System, the voter cannot request another ballot or change their vote.

For more information, visit the Town Clerk page on the town website or contact 413-203-3080 or clerk@westhamptonma.org.



◆ La Cucina di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA

413-566-8324

www.lacucinahampden.com

CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm; Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm
Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

◆ Route 20 Bar & Grille

2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)
Wilbraham, MA

413-279-2020

www.route20barandgrille.com

CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm; Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm; Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ Donovan's Irish Pub

Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA

413-543-0791

www.donovanpub.com

CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm; Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ Venice Pizza & Grill

2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops
Wilbraham, MA

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BECKET

Caucus nominations due by March 16

BECKET — The Annual Town Caucus will be held at Becket Town Hall on Tuesday, April 6, from noon to 7 p.m. to cast ballots for the nomination of candidates.

The following offices need to be filled at the Annual Town Election on May 19, 2021: member, Board of Selectmen, three-year term; member, Board of Health, three-year term; Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term, two members, Finance Committee, three-year terms; member, Planning Board, three-year term; two constables, three-year terms.

Any candidate requesting that his or her name appear on the ballot for the Annual Town Caucus must file a Caucus Nomination Paper with the Town Clerk by 5 p.m. on March 16. No signatures are required and the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast at the Caucus shall be declared nominated for such office and their names will appear on the Annual Town Election ballot. Please note that if a person receives less than 8% of the votes of those voting for candidates for such office at a Caucus, they shall not be declared nominated.

If someone plans to run for office in 2021, but choose to forego the Caucus, they must obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on March 24. At least 20 signatures of registered voters in the Town of Becket are required and the last day and hour to submit nomination papers to the Registrars of Voters for certification is 5 p.m. on April 9, in order for the name to appear on the ballot for the Annual Town Election.

The Town of Becket Annual Town Meeting is currently scheduled for May 8 and the Annual Town Election is currently scheduled for May 15. The dates for Caucus, Town Meeting, and Town Election are subject to change due to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

All candidates must be registered voters in the Town of Becket.

For further information, please contact Town Clerk George Roberts at 413-623-8934 ext. 111. Voter registration forms are available at Becket Town Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Race Amity presentation to be held Saturday

BECKET — The Becket Athenaeum will host a Race Amity Zoom Presentation on Saturday, March 6.

The lecture and media presentation will be by award-winning race relations media producer, writer, author, and documentarian William H. "Smitty" Smith, Ed.D. Smith is the executive producer and senior writer of public television documentary "An American Story: Race Amity and the Other Tradition," co-author of companion book "Race Amity—America's Other Tradition," founding executive director for the National Center for Race Amity, and a recipient of the Filmmakers Hall of Fame Award.

The event will run from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 6. Preregistration is required for the Zoom event and is available at bit.ly/raceamity.

The event is co-presented by the Becket Athenaeum and West Stockbridge Public Library. This program is funded by a grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

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WILLIAMSBURG

Vaccination info for residents

WILLIAMSBURG — The State of Massachusetts is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccinations in three phases. Each phase has groups to be vaccinated in priority order. Currently the State is in Phase 2 and vaccines across the state are open to individuals who are 75 and older. Seniors may find a location to get a vaccination by visiting www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine.

The next priority group, which opened up on Feb. 18, is for individuals 65 and older and those with two or more health conditions that put them at high risk for COVID-19 complications. After those groups, Phase 2 covers residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing, educators, employees who work in retail, foodservice facilities, public works, and transportation, and individuals with one health condition that puts them at high risk.

Phase 3 covers everyone in the general public who were not covered in phase 1 or 2. It is scheduled to begin sometime between April and June. At this time, the town is working with state approved regional vaccination sites. As the state moves through Phase 2 and

on to Phase 3, town officials will communicate with residents eligible under that phase about how best to sign up to get vaccinated. People should not sign up until the state is in the phase under which a person is eligible. People will be turned away even if they sign up.

Residents may also reach out to their doctor. Cooley Dickinson is reaching out to all patients to help them sign up for a vaccine. To sign up for Northampton's vaccination site, visit www.northamptonma.gov/2219/COVID-19-Vaccination-Clinics.

Please beware of scam emails, links, and websites regarding vaccinations. For accurate details about the phases and where the state is in the rollout, visit www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine.

Before and after being vaccinated, please take care, wear a mask, and maintain social distance. If someone believes they have been exposed — especially if they have symptoms — they should get tested. Call a doctor or see the Mass.gov website for testing locations. If someone has concerns or questions, contact Board of Health Chair Donna Gibson at 413-268-7421.

PROPOSAL

Committee has done leading up to the point of bringing forward the recommendation to demolish the Helen E. James School building to construct a new PSC in its place to the town in April for an estimated \$5.1 million.

The committee asked about pursuing private land acquisition for an alternative site or waiting to see if new comes available in the future.

"To acquire private land, state law requires that the Town conduct an open and fair solicitation of proposals that can be meaningfully compared," said OPMSC Chairman Jim Ayres. "The OPM Steering Committee conducted a public solicitation of land back in 2019. This process resulted in zero interest from private landowners in Town."

Committee member Dan Bonham added, "based on historical construction data, the annual cost of materials, and labor consistently increases, often up to 5%+ a year. The current climate indicates a competitive time to sell construction work. Because of current unusual market factors, we're finding costs to be down from any typical upward trend. The current market is also yielding low

borrowing rates for municipalities funding projects just like this one. In other words, the project will likely cost more money later on."

Fire Chief Jason Connell explained to the boards it was difficult to find suitable sites in town due to size, access, lack of town water access, or not being a centralized location.

"The current fire and police buildings are sited on lots that are too small for a new safety complex," he said. "All of these factors limited the siting of a new safety complex."

The committee was asked for details on how bad a shape the HEJ building is in that would warrant renovating it to be too costly for the town. The building needs a total roof replacement, truss repair, window and door replacements, masonry repairs, entrance and exit repairs to bring in compliance with ADA regulations, elevator repairs, building site and drainage repairs, significant removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials, a new sprinkler system, full mechanical and electrical replacement, and significant structural reinforcements for required seismic improvements.

Caucus meets March 13

WILLIAMSBURG — The Annual Town Caucus will be held on Saturday, March 13 at 1 p.m. at the Highway Garage, 24 Main Street. The purpose of the Caucus is to nominate the names of people to run for elected positions on the May ballot.

The following positions will be on the ballot listed with the person currently in that seat. All positions are three-year terms unless otherwise stated. The positions include: Assessors, Denise Banister; Board of Health, Gordon Luce; Board of Library Trustees, Joan Coryat and Ken Borden; Board of Library Trustees, one-year term, Fred Goodhue; Elector-Oliver Smith Will, one-year term, Eric Cerreta; Finance Committee, Eric Cerreta, Charles Dudek, and Julia

Peters; Local School Committee, Marissa Nya; Moderator, one-year term, Paul Rudof; Recreation Commission, Collin Black; Regional School Committee, Paul Kennedy; Board of Selectmen, William Sayre; Trust Fund/Cemetery Commission, Eric Weber; Water/Sewer Commission, Roger Bisbee.

The Caucus traditionally is a fairly quick event. In order to keep everyone safe, it will be held in the largest bay of the Highway Garage, chairs will be placed six feet apart and the bays will be left open to the outside. Wear clothes appropriate for the outdoors and come nominate the elected officials. The town need 540 people to reach a quorum, so please come participate in Town Government.

Parents & Coaches
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email us at: countryjournal@turley.com

from page 1

CHESTERFIELD

May 3 election papers available

CHESTERFIELD — The town will vote to fill a variety of different positions on town boards at the election on May 3.

Nomination papers are now available from the Town Clerk. The following positions will be on the ballot along with the current incumbent listed. These are all three-year terms unless noted differently:

Select Board, Roger Fuller; Assessor, Crystal Ames, will not seek reelection; Moderator, Russell Peotter; Board of Health, John Chandler, will not seek reelection; Chesterfield-Goshen School Committee, Geoff Gougeon; Hampshire Regional School Committee, Carole Bergeron, will not seek reelection; Hampshire Regional School Committee, one-year term, vacant; Constable, vacant; Library Trustee, Linda Urban-Lyon; Planning Board, two-year term, vacant; Planning Board, Mark Klitzke; Planning Board George Sturtevant.

Any registered voter in Chesterfield is able to run for elected office. They must contact the town clerk to get a nomination paper for that position; they must

collect actual signatures from at least 23 registered voters from Chesterfield and return the papers to the clerk's office by 5 p.m. on March 15. Contact the town clerk at townclerk@townofchesterfieldma.com with any questions or call 413-296-4741 ext. 4 for the clerk's direct line.

Dog licenses are due by March 31. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccination. It is unknown if there will be a rabies clinic this year so check with a vet to make an appointment. Contact the clerk with questions or check the town website at www.townofchesterfieldma.com.

The clerk also reminds residents to please return the street listing if they have not done so. It is an important source of information for the town as we receive funding for federal and state programs for many programs based on the total population numbers. Also, the town needs the updated numbers of school children, seniors, and veterans, which is collected from the street listing. If someone did not receive the street listing form, please contact the town clerk at townclerk@townofchesterfieldma.com.

Altogether, it totals approximately \$2.1 million.

Finance Committee Chairman Paul Wetzel said the building is not an attractive market option to try and sell it to another developer to rehabilitate. The town will try to sell the current police and first buildings to bring in a small amount of revenue, but also remove the yearly maintenance costs from the town books. The OPMSC was also asked if the HEJ building could be left alone with the PSC built next to it on the site.

"The committee and design team explored this option. The project would be spared the expense of having to demolish the HEJ building, however the added cost of building within the floodplain and high-water table on the other half of the site would offset any real savings," said Jean O'Neil. "Ultimately, the committee feels the HEJ should not be left unaddressed. The Town continues to pay 10s of thousands a year to just keep the building maintained as is, while the taxpayers are not benefiting from it."

Wetzel also addressed the question of tax rate impact. The money for the \$5.1 million dollar recommendation

would borrow \$4.05 million for 20 years with a 2% interest rate. Debt payments would not start until 2023. Based on the average single home family in town of \$279,389, the average annual safety complex increases on the tax rate for a single-family house would be an estimated \$56 quarterly or \$223 annually.

The OPMSC has managed to save about \$60,000 out of the \$180,000 allocated for the current design phase. Any money that is leftover at the end of the project will be returned to the general fund and go get added to free cash.

The recommendation will come before the town for a vote on Saturday, April 3, at 2 p.m. behind the Anne T. Dunphy School. An all-day vote will be held another day following the special town meeting vote.

There will be informational meetings for the town to present the situation to the town and answer questions. The first was held on Wednesday, March 3, at 6 p.m. and the next one will be held on Saturday, March 20, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

For more information, visit burg.org.

News, photo publication policy

As a community newspaper our focus has always been local news. While we try very hard to run upcoming events as a public service whenever space allows, space does not allow us to run an upcoming event repeatedly. Our policy is to limit publication of upcoming events to one article in advance of the event and, space permitting, a second brief reminder article the week prior to an event, and to run those articles in only one section of the paper, and not in multiple sections simultaneously.

All such public service announcements and photos are subject to space limitations and deadlines, therefore publication cannot be guaranteed. Whenever copy for the week exceeds allotted space, news copy will take priority, and public service copy is the first area to be cut. We also reserve the right to edit for style and space, and are under no obligation to print lists of sponsorships, or articles that arrive after deadline, unless time and space allows.

Deadline is Monday at NOON, on holidays it is Friday at 2 p.m.



WESTHAMPTON

Safety Complex meeting vote postponed until Saturday

WESTHAMPTON — Town Moderator Benjamin Warren declared town meeting members may be unable to attend the Special Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 because of a weather-related emergency. The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 6, at the Hampshire Regional High School parking lot.

The decision was made in the interest of protecting residents from the impacts of unfavorable weather exposure. After consulting with the Selectboard, warren wrote in his declaration of recess and continuance “the weather poses a threat to public health, safety, and general welfare of people attending an outdoor meeting in Westhampton.”

Homesteading program planned for March calendar of events

WESTHAMPTON — A couple new events are on the calendar at the Westhampton Public Library next month including a special homesteading program at the end of March.

The program — Healthy Soil, Healthy Gardens: Small Scale Practices for Soil Improvement and Carbon Sequestration — will be held on March 30 at 7 p.m. The special presentation co-hosted by the library, Grown in Westhampton and Climate Action Now.

Sharon Gensler, is a homesteader, organic grower, and educator with over 38 years of experience using no-till and cover crop soil building practices on a small scale. Maintaining living plant cover is one of the essential practices of building soil health. This workshop provides practical guidance on using cover crops in a small-scale, non-mechanized, no-till context to improve soil health both for growing more nutritious food and for sequestering atmospheric carbon into the soil to help heal climate change.

Special thanks to the Friends and The Lyn Keating Programming Fund for sponsoring this program. Please email westhampton@cwmars.org for a Zoom link if interested in attending.

Online storytime with Youth Services Librarian Emily Wayne meets each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.; connect with other families and beat the social isolation. Email ewayne@cwmars.org for Zoom login.

Virtual book group will meet next on Tuesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. Contact westhampton@cwmars.org to request a copy of the March book and a Zoom link.

Young Adult book group will be meeting, but the date hasn't been decided yet. The group is currently choosing from a selection of award-winning titles to read next. To weigh in on the pick and for details on how to join, please contact Wayne at ewayne@cwmars.org. YA Book Group will also be weighing in on new decorations for the teen room Stay tuned for more details.

MIDDLEFIELD

Dog licenses expire March 31

MIDDLEFIELD — The new 2021 dog licenses are in and available at the town clerk's office. All 2020 licenses expire on March 31. All dogs over six months old are required to have a current license. Proof of rabies vacci-

nation is required. Fees are \$5 for neutered males and spayed females, and \$10 non-neutered males and unspayed females. For more information, contact the town clerk at 413-623-2079 or townclerk@middlefieldma.net.



Rabies clinic open to all March 20

MIDDLEFIELD — All Hilltown dogs and cats are welcome to the Middlefield/Chester Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Middlefield Town Hall on 188 Skyline Trail in Middlefield.

Dr. Sherry Holt will be the veterinarian. Please bring the current rabies certificate if possible. Shots will be \$20 per pet. Please bring a self-addressed stamped envelope and the new rabies

certificate will be mailed to the owner. Middlefield dog licenses will also be available.

This will be held outside as a drive-up event. Everyone will remain in their cars until directed otherwise. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced.

Any questions may be directed to Middlefield/Chester Animal Control at 413-354-0975.

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a

message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, March 10, is oven baked cod with tartar sauce, steamed peas, scalloped potatoes, pumpernickel bread, and fig bar.

CUMMINGTON

Friday Night Café returns with three new songs

CUMMINGTON — The Friday Night Café has been delivering music throughout the COVID-19 pandemic online until it's safe to gather together again.

The February post is up at The New Rural Advocate website. There are three self-recorded songs by FNC performers responding to the February theme “Rest.”

Friday Night Café adopted a “Lo-Fi” approach as many performers have gone the route of live streaming their performances, or making videos, during COVID-19. Those efforts presented an

array of technology challenges including slow hilltown internet, lack of gear, lack of knowledge or experience with gear, and watching on screens. Posting the audio files makes it easier to alleviate some of these difficulties. Depending on the flow, one or a few recordings will be sent out on Fridays.

Once again, this is brought to the community by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music can be a powerful force for building community. All FNC songs are posted online at newruraladvocate.com.

GOSHEN

Dog licenses expire March 31

GOSHEN — Town Clerk Kristen Estelle reminds residents that 2020 dog licenses expire March 31, and 2021 licenses need to be obtained. A dog licensing form was mailed with the street listing, but can also be found at www.goshen-ma.us/dog-licenses.

Neutered/spayed dogs are \$5 each; intact dogs are \$10. Valid rabies certificates are required and must be sent with the dog license form. A certificate of spaying/neutering must also be sent to obtain a spayed female/neutered male license.

As the town offices are still closed to the public at this time, please send the dog license form, fees, and certificates along with a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the licenses and tag(s) to Goshen Town Clerk, 40 Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032. Residents may also drop the paperwork off in the town clerk drop box, located to the left of the door to the town offices.



Muscle strength classes meet

GOSHEN — Joan Griswold's muscle strengthening classes continue on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays at 10:15 a.m. If someone is interested in joining, contact Joan2byhealth.

com. Goshen sponsors the Wednesday morning class and donations are accepted at any time. Send donations to Goshen COA, 40 Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032.

Caucus convenes Monday, March 15

GOSHEN — The 2021 Town Caucus will be held on Monday, March 15, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. All registered voters are invited to participate. Any town resident may be nominated for any of the positions below.

Voters will be asked to wear a mask and use hand sanitizer before entering the town hall. Social distancing and other safety precautions will be in place.

The following positions are up for nomination and the individuals who currently occupy the seats:

Almoners, three-year term, Kristine Bissell; Assessors, three-year term, Gina

Papineau; Board of Health, Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School Committee, three-year term, Barton Gage; Finance Committee, three-year term, Angela Otis; Finance Committee, two-year term, currently vacant; Library Trustees, two seats for three-year terms, Rosemarie Clark and Miriam Kurland; Planning Board, five-year term, Lisa Newman; Planning Board, two-year term, currently vacant; Selectboard, three-year term, Angela Otis; Tilton Farm Supervisors, three one-year terms, Roger Culver, Robert Gross, and Richard Polwrek; Town Clerk, three-year term, Kristen Estelle.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

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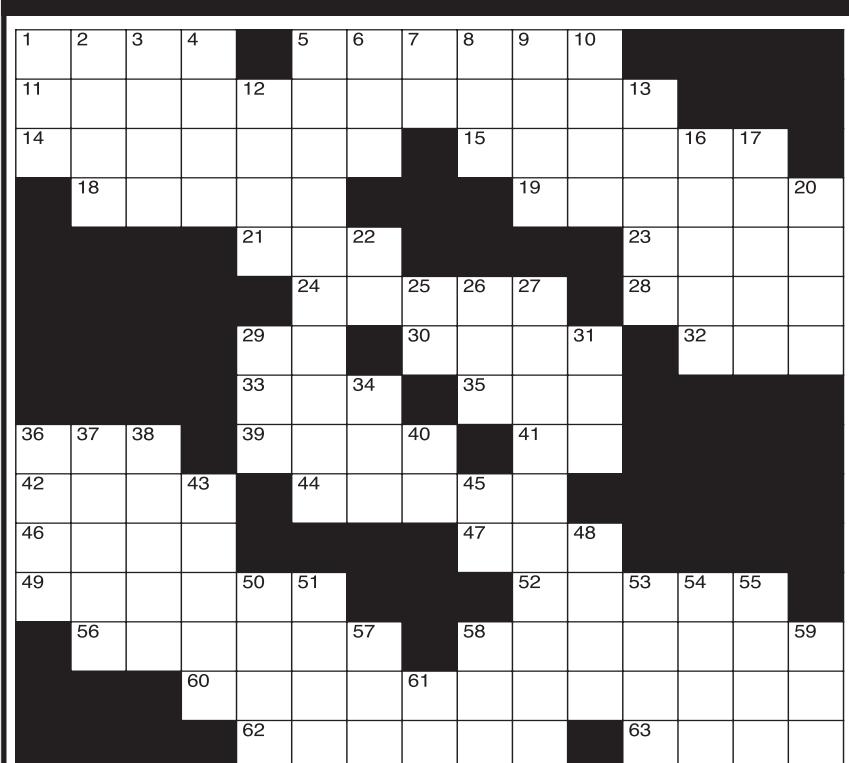
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CLUES ACROSS

- One of Noah's sons
- Openings
- Rising from the dead
- Expressions for humorous effect
- North American country
- Flowed over
- Tags
- Long-lasting light bulb
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Khoikhoi peoples
- Beloved movie pig
- South Dakota
- Tai language
- Get free of
- Afflict
- Transmits genetic information from DNA
- Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- A title of respect in India
- His and __
- Employee stock ownership plan
- A type of bond
- Digits
- Expression of sympathy
- Bleats
- Swiss Nobel Peace Prize winner
- Vegetable
- Turf
- Disorganized in character
- Takes
- Rules over
- More fervid
- Sweet drink
- Cry loudly
- friendly nation
- Swiss river
- About senator
- Paulo, city
- Native American tribe
- "Titanic" actor
- Campaign for students' rights
- Three-toed sloth

CLUES ACROSS

- Acting as if you are
- Affirmative
- Not caps
- Type of medication
- Monetary unit
- Private school in New York
- Small stream
- A person of wealth
- Exclude
- Someone who vouches for you
- Vegetable part
- Gov't lawyer
- Term to address a woman
- Swiss river
- About senator
- Paulo, city
- Native American tribe
- "Titanic" actor
- Campaign for students' rights
- Three-toed sloth

CLUES DOWN

- Capital of Senegal
- Slang for military leader
- Football's big game
- Women who threw themselves on funeral pyres
- Equally
- Forest animal
- Heavy stoves
- Releasing hormone (abbr.)
- Song
- Type of pickle
- Offer in return for money
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Burns wood (abbr.)
- Beloved singer Charles
- Three-toed sloth

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Expect to be in high demand. You have the time and energy to give to others, so make the most of each chance to lend someone a helping hand.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, make a habit of finding the silver lining to any situation. This shift in attitude can bring more positivity and sunshine into your life, particularly when you need it most.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Get a firm grasp on your finances this week, Libra. Start browsing your bank accounts so you have a better idea of your spending. This way you can better plan for the future.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, no matter how much time you want to devote to your personal goals, you just may find that other activities require much more attention than you anticipated.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Now is a good time to focus on your relationships, Taurus. There may be a close friend who can use a little more attention from a confidante and you can fill that role.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Shift your focus to your home life, Leo. Find various ways to make things more pleasant at home so it can be the respite that it should be.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

You are usually better at focusing on the tasks at hand than most other astrological signs, Virgo. Don't be hard on yourself if you get a tad distracted in the next few days.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

There is work to be done, Gemini. If your work space is a tad chaotic, then hunker down somewhere less hectic. This can provide the right environment for focus.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Take your foot off of the accelerator, Sagittarius. You don't have to race to the finish line; enjoy the scenery for a change. Stop as many times as you can along the way.

AQUARIUS

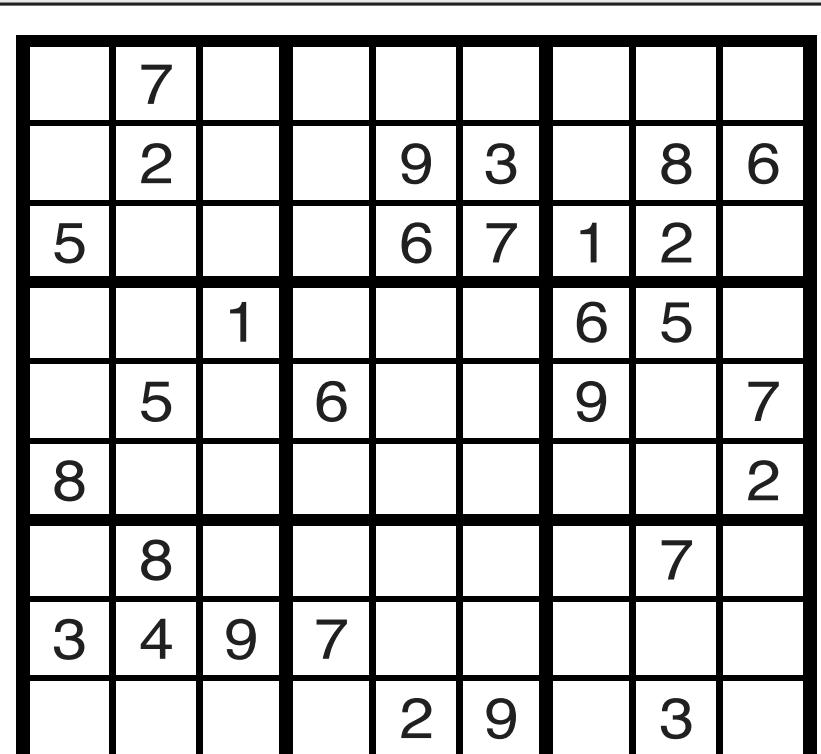
Jan 21/Feb 18

Normally you are very good at keeping your emotions in check, Scorpio. However, letting others see what's beneath the surface can be beneficial to you in the weeks to come.

PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

Aquarius, don't be surprised if you have your patience tested a bit this week, especially at the workplace. You'll find a way to come out shining, however.



SUDOKU

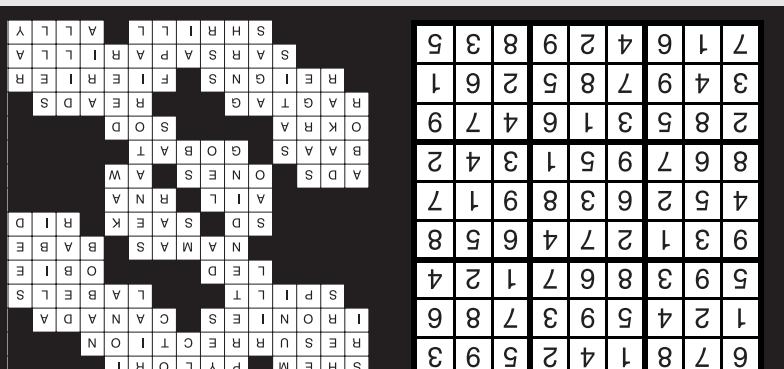
Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Answers



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OBITUARIES

Mary Elizabeth Lagoy

Sister Mary Elizabeth Lagoy, after a long illness, died in her sleep Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021. Born in 1932 on May 6, she was the fourth child of Gilbert and Clara Lagoy of Huntington. She leaves four siblings: Theresa, Claire, James (Linda), and Edward (Barbara), and many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she is predeceased by siblings Leonard "Buck," Lillian, Jean, Rita, Anna, Mae, and John.

Mary graduated from Huntington High School in 1949 and from St. Rose College in Albany, NY in 1953. Her master's in social studies was earned



at the University of Albany.

Mary was a sister of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary for her adult life. She taught in several schools in the Albany, NY area. For five years, she was a business manager for Sheed and Ward Publishing Co. in Kansas City, MO. After retiring from teaching, she ministered to the Native American Indians in Florida and in upstate New York.

Called Mel by her friends and loved by all, she will be dearly missed.

Services will be in the spring by her order in Albany.

Warren Meek, 85

Warren Meek, 85, went to be with Jesus after a short illness on Feb. 16, 2021. Born on April 27, 1935 in Lexington, MA, Warren was the son of the late Leonard and Catherine (Leaf) Meek.

He married Patricia (Orell) Meek on Feb. 25, 1958. They shared almost 63 years of a loving marriage. They initially made their home in Westfield, moving to Worthington in 1990 and then finally to Huntington in 2011. Warren was employed at Western Mass Hospital for 24 years, where he worked in food services as a butcher. He also worked for Big Y in Westfield before retiring.

Warren was a devoted husband and father who loved his family above all else. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, walking in the woods, gardening, and feeding the birds



and squirrels. He vacationed yearly with his family and especially enjoyed Maine and the beach. Warren will be remembered for the way he loved his family, his welcoming loving smile, sense of humor, generous heart and gentle spirit.

Warren is survived by his wife Patricia (Orell) Meek, daughter Catherine and husband Edward of Huntington, daughter Lorraine and husband Richard of Chicopee, sisters-in-law Clara Meek and Patricia Meek, and grandson Michael of California. He was predeceased by Siblings Leonard, Phillip, Donald and Robert Meek.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held in the spring of 2021. All services are being taken care of by Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home. For more information, please visit www.toomeyobrien.com.

DEATH NOTICES

LAGOY, SISTER MARY ELIZABETH

Died Feb. 20, 2021
Services to be held at later date

MEEK, WARREN

Died Feb. 16, 2021
Celebration of Life to be held at later date

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF WORTHINGTON PLANNING BOARD

The Worthington Planning Board will hold a public hearing for a proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), Amendment to the Zoning Bylaws.

The Hearing will be held **Friday, March 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM**.

Remote public access will be provided utilizing GoToMeeting virtual software: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/700268037>

To attend via phone dial: 646-749-3112; access code: 700-268-037.

A link to the meeting and the proposed text of the bylaw can be found on the Town website's community calendar – by clicking on the date of the meeting.

A copy of the text of the proposed bylaw may also be obtained by calling the Town Clerk at 413 238-5577 ext. 110. 02/25, 03/04/2021

Community Outreach Meeting Canna Testing LLC

Notice is hereby given that Canna Testing LLC will host a Community Outreach Meeting to discuss the proposed siting of the Marijuana Independent Testing Lab at 241 Route 20, Chester MA 01011 in accordance with Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission's regulation 935 CMR 500.00. The meeting will be held **Thursday, MARCH 18, 2021 at 6:00PM**.

The meeting will be held on Zoom conference due to Covid Regulations.

Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83852159385?pwd=aVZna0dhUlh2MWd1czgwb3VDWWTQ09>
Passcode: Testing
03/04, 03/11/2021

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN TOWN OF HUNTINGTON HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS TOWN HALL RAMP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MARCH 4, 2021

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Town of Huntington has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential affect that its activity in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment for the Town Hall Ramp Improvement Project (hereinafter, the "proposed activity"). There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an ade-

quate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas.

Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Funding for the proposed activity will be provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Housing and Community Development, Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program.

The proposed activity is intended to provide barrier free access to the Town Hall's entrance by means of a new fully ADA compliant ramp. The ramp will be installed between the Town Hall and Stanton Hall buildings. The proposed activity will result in temporary impacts to 0.025 acres of 100-Year Floodplain. The use of a new fully compliant ramp will remove any existing barriers to the Town Hall's entrance. Additional site work related to the construction of the ramp will include excavation, earth-work, filling and grading. The proposed project is located at 24 Russell Road in Town of Huntington, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the proposed activity or request further

information by contacting Edward Renaud, Huntington Environmental Certifying Officer, Town of Huntington, 24 Russell Road, Huntington, MA 01050, during the hours of 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Phone: 413-512-5200, Email: admin@huntingtonma.us. All comments received by **March 23, 2021** will be considered. 03/04/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0253EA**

**Estate of:
Earl H Stone
Also Known As:
Earl Stone
Date of Death:
12/05/2020**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lee Robert of Chester MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Lee Robert of Chester MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to

(MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 23, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/04/2021

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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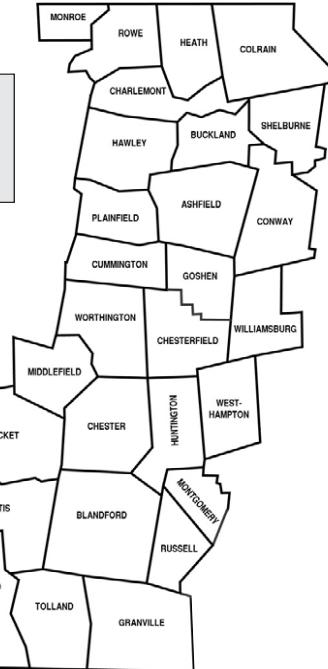
24 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030

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or call toll free: 413-283-8393**DEADLINES:**HILLTOWNS - **MONDAY AT NOON**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN - **FRIDAY AT NOON****CATEGORY:**

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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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29 Base Price \$14.00	30 Base Price \$14.50	31 Base Price \$15.00	32 Base Price \$15.50
33 Base Price \$16.00	34 Base Price \$16.50	35 Base Price \$17.00	36 Base Price \$17.50
37 Base Price \$18.00	38 Base Price \$18.50	39 Base Price \$19.00	40 Base Price \$19.50

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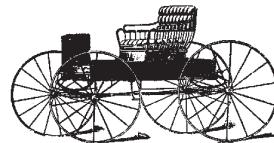


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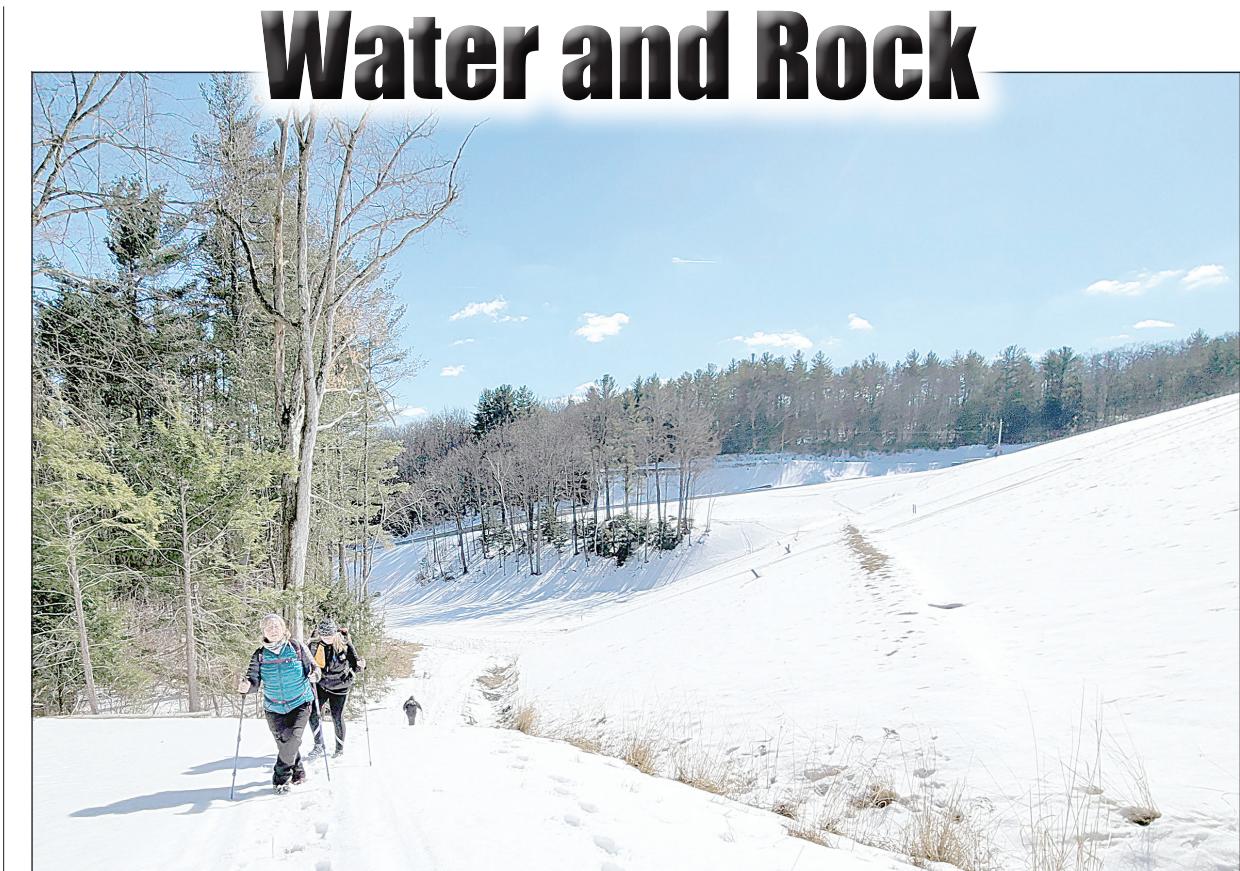
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Classified Advertising
DEADLINES
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN
FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS
MONDAY AT NOON



Nancy Raspida, Linda Malcovsky, Karen McTaggart, and Liz Massa take to the snow while traversing the Granville Reservoir loop from Gate 1.

Submitted photos

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



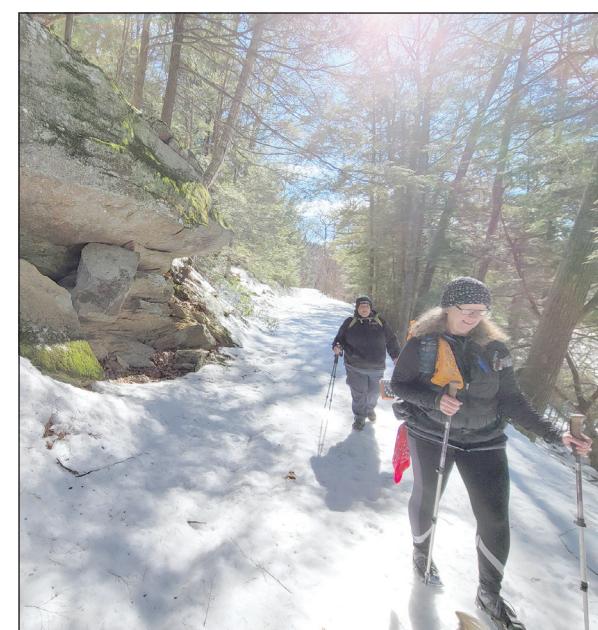
The Granville Reservoir frozen over on a sunny winter afternoon.



The hikers found some incredible icicle formations along the trails.



Ronnie explores the winter wilderness on the Granville Gorge trail.



Careful footing hiking up the snowy trail.



Karen McTaggart plays with Jake while taking a break.